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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
23 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence) *CO/ED*  
SUBJECT: Offshore Island Situation

General

The Communists launched their first air attack on Nanchishan on 22 February. The Nationalists are continuing their air strikes in the Taishan area, midway between Nanchishan and the Matsus.

Nanchishan

During the early morning hours of 21 February, Far East time, six Communist reconnaissance swimmers landed on a small islet just east of Nanchishan. They were driven off by Nationalist fire. Subsequent Nationalist ground reconnaissance proved negative.

On 21 February Nationalist bombers made 15 sorties against Communist shipping and positions in the Taishan area. The Nationalists report that three Communist junks were sunk and artillery positions on Taishan were destroyed.

Two hundred Communist junks were reported north of Nanchishan on 22 February.  later located an estimated 100 junks near Peichishan, an island about 12 miles northeast of Nanchishan. Four Nationalist destroyer escorts have been ordered to Nanchishan. 25X1

Early in the afternoon on 22 February three Communist LA-11 fighter-bombers struck at Nanchishan. The local Nationalist political headquarters was reported destroyed but there were no casualties.

The Nationalist defense ministry informed MAAG officials that nine "formations" of unidentified Communist planes, believed to be MIG-15 jet fighters, moved to Chuhsien from Nanchang on 21 February. Chuhsien is located in Chekiang

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Province, just 175 miles from Nanchishan. Construction of a large jet base at Chuhsien was completed last fall. MIG's from Nanchang could belong to the Korean-trained 18th Air Division or to the 24th Air Division, both of which have been operating at Nanchang. Chuhsien is the closest operational jet air base in the Nanchishan area.

Matsus

Sounds of explosions on the coast in the Matsu area indicate continued Communist construction. The Nationalists have sent a battalion of regular infantry to reinforce the small garrison on Yinshan (Tungyin), 35 miles northeast of the Matsus.

Quemoy

Negative.

Weather

Forecast for the next 48 hours indicates generally favorable weather for military operations in the offshore islands. Winds are 10-15 knots, sea slight to moderate, visibility good except for morning and evening coastal fog.

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